Slope Calculator Scenario—Rodney Trapp

Enter the following information, as prompted:

College start date          no college planned, but enter 09/01/2017
College graduation date     no college planned, but enter 09/01/2017
Career Category             Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations
Career                      Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers
Will you pay interest on Direct Unsubsidized Loans during school  No

Keep the suggested interest rate, loan term, and minimum payment for the calculations.

Loans: Enter the following for all four years—Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior
- 0 Unsubsidized
- 0 Subsidized
- 0 Other

What is Rodney’s SLOPE calculation: (%) (ideal is 8% or less)

Additional Information on Rodney’s Journey (not used in SLOPE calculator)
- High School GPA          2.1
- ACT Composite Score      12
- College to Attend        Not attending college.
- College Cost             $0
- Amount of Scholarships, Family Support and Loans $0

Take Home Pay and Monthly Expenses

Take-home Pay for Your Career Choice
Career: Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations
Estimated gross wages/salary (first-year earnings): $18110.00
Estimated taxes and other deductions: $5433.00
Take-home pay: $12677.00

Monthly Income
The first step is tracking your income. How much money is coming into your household? Figure that out by typing in below your monthly income after all taxes and deductions. This figure should be the total take-home pay for your household.
- Your take-home pay: $1056.42
- Spouse’s take-home pay: $0
- Part-time work: $0
- Child support/alimony: $0
- Other: $0
Net income: $1056.42
Slope Calculator Scenario—Rodney Trapp

Projected Budget (RUReady, Bismarck area starting wage) — $17,070 or $8.21/h

Projected Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fixed Expenses</th>
<th>Variable Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student loans</td>
<td>Credit card bills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>Other items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent/Mortgage payment</td>
<td>Clothing/Shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas and electricity</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water/Sewer/Trash</td>
<td>Parking/Tolls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home upkeep/haircuts</td>
<td>Car maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home insurance</td>
<td>Postage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life insurance</td>
<td>Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability insurance</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car insurance</td>
<td>Charity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car loans</td>
<td>Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car stickers/license</td>
<td>Vacation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus/Train/Car</td>
<td>Tobacco/Alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Medical/Dental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell phone</td>
<td>Eye glasses/Contacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td>Home cleaning supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry/Dry cleaning</td>
<td>Personal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical/Hair care/Beauty</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsprint/Utilities</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable/Satellite television</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total fixed expenses: $75

Financial Summary

Net Income: $1296.42
Fixed Expenses: $1,175.00
Variable Expenses: $0
Total Net Income: $115.32

Summary for SLOPE Calculator Activity
Rodney is surprised at the results of the monthly budget. He can see that he won’t be able to pay his bills with the kind of job he was thinking of taking.

First setback
This realization is Rodney’s first set-back. He already has this job—part time—and was intending to go full time after graduation. He was also hoping to move out of his parent’s home. Clearly, he’ll have to rethink this.
June, after graduation
Rodney moved ahead with his plan to go full-time at his fast-food job and got an apartment with a friend. So far, he’s been able to make his bills and enjoy living on his own. It’s been a little tight, but since he’s full-time, he’s able to eat meals on his job for free.

Second Setback
His employer is cutting back on hours, due to higher costs and fewer customers. Rodney is still full-time, but barely so at 36 hours a week. He has to decide between paying rent and paying for his car insurance. So far, he’s paid on rent, parked his car and biked to work. Winter is right around the corner, though.
November, after graduation

Rodney got a second, part time job to help cover the bills. He’s dishwashing in the evenings at a hotel when they have banquets. So far, it is really interesting! Sometimes he gets to work on the line and has been learning to make the gourmet sauces used for the banquet meals. The kitchen staff are a little older and really cool. Most nights Rodney works, the crew gets together for after-hours fun and they’ve included him. Good thing he’s still biking, because driving would be out of the question after the drinking (and more) that goes on at these parties. All in all, Rodney feels good about where he’s going.

Third Setback

Rodney’s co-worker at the hotel pulls him aside and lets him know that in August, he’ll be a father. Wow…this was not what he had planned. Trishell, his co-worker, isn’t sure what she wants to do, but wanted Rodney to know.

Time for a “Take-2”

With this turn of events, Rodney has new adult decisions to make. How will he handle the additional expenses of being a parent? If Trishell is open to it, should he ask her to get married? What will his parents say?

What would you advise?? Use the Take-2 Planning Grid!
Take-2 Conclusion

Rodney talked with his parents about his situation. They strongly advised him to get married and to get a better job. Trishell, however, was not interested in getting married. Rodney thought about several options: joining the military, working two full-time jobs and trying another line of work. He’d taken a couple of classes in auto collision in high school.

It turned out that Rodney’s brother-in-law knew the owner of a local body shop who was willing to take Rodney on as a trainee. It paid a bit more than the fast-food work and he was able to work his way into being an auto painter. In time, and if he got a 2-year degree, he would get paid a decent wage. Rodney also continued with his evening dishwashing job, but mostly stayed away from the after-hours scene.

August came and went with no word from Trishell—she’d moved back home to small town, ND. However, that September a notice came for Rodney spelling out the amount he’d need to pay in child support. With this additional monthly responsibility, going back to school was out. Rodney moved back in with his parents—temporarily—until he could find affordable housing and get caught up on his bills.